

# THORGAL

**The Invisible Fortress**

**ROSINSKI - VAN HAMME**



ROSINSKI-VAN HAMME

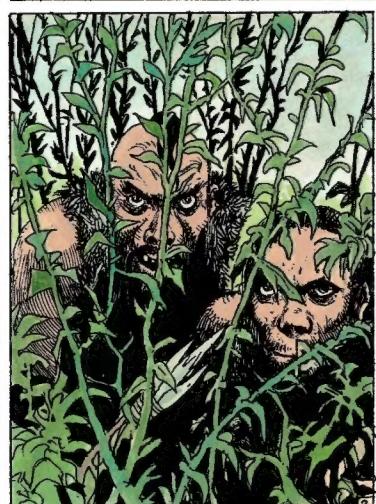
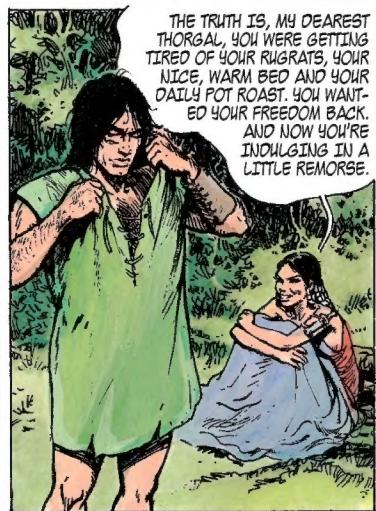
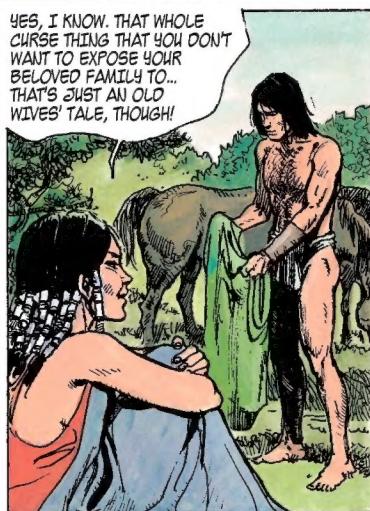
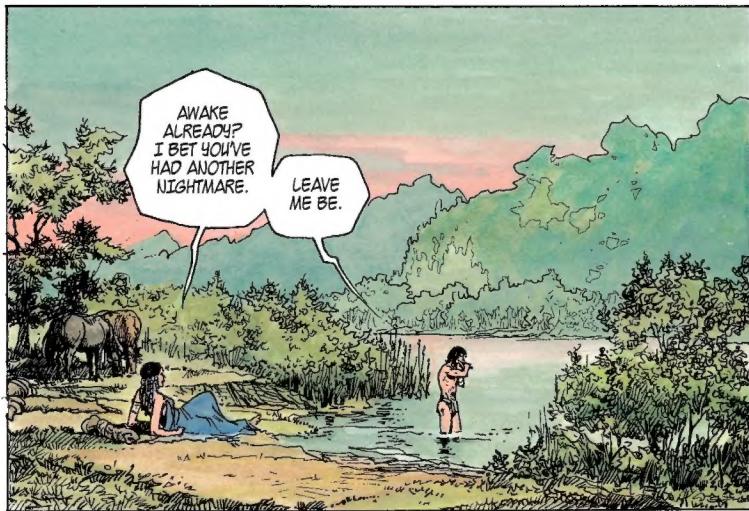
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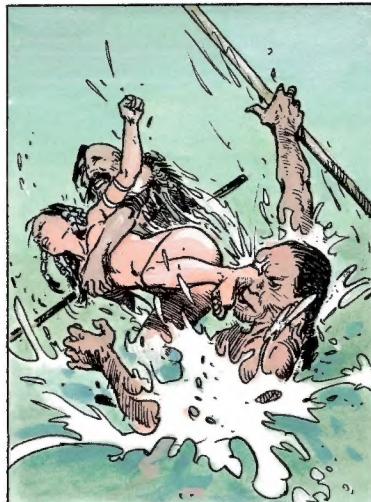
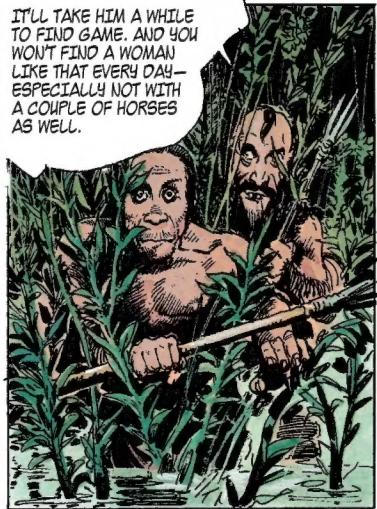
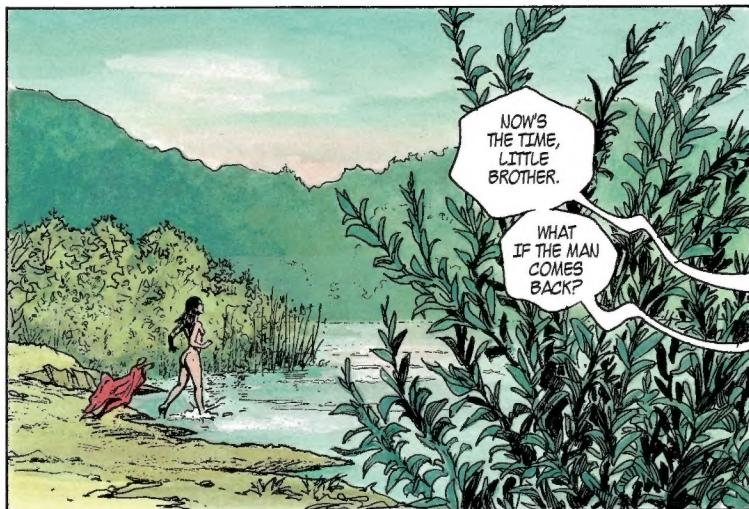
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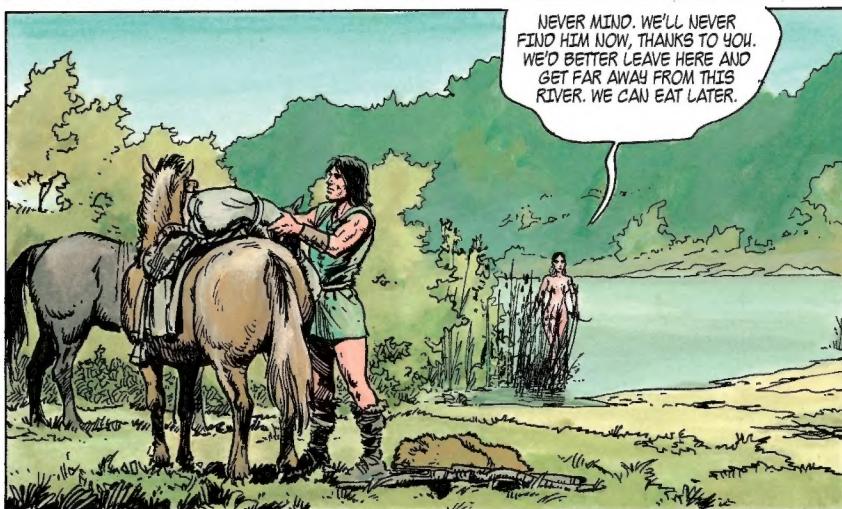
Colour work: GRAZA

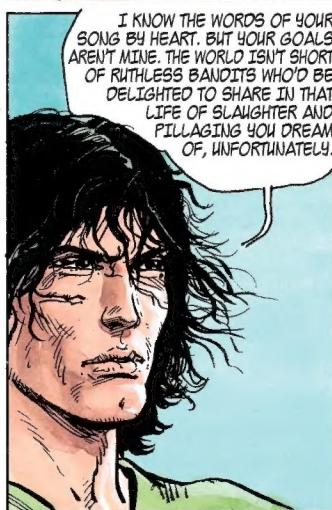
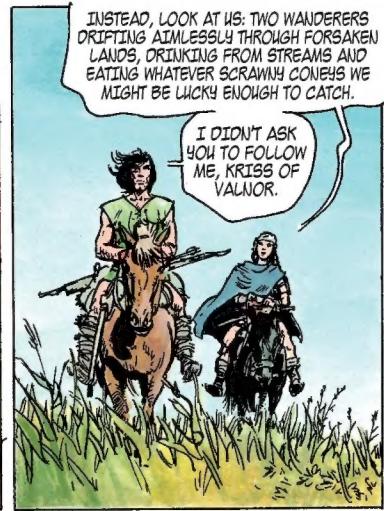


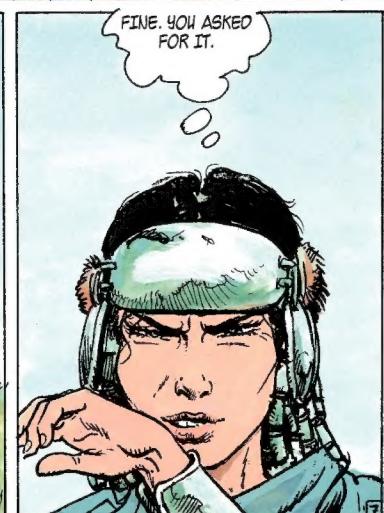


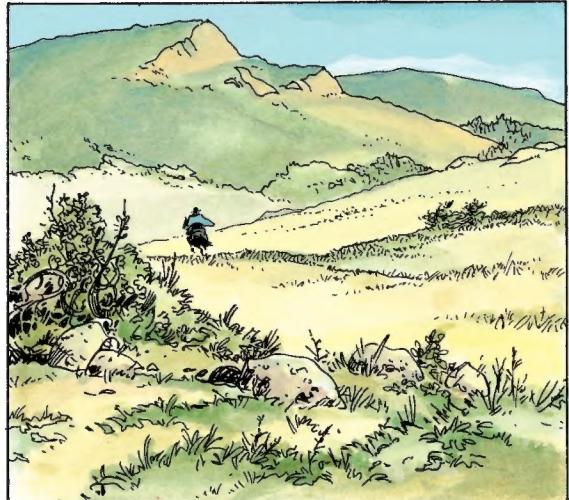
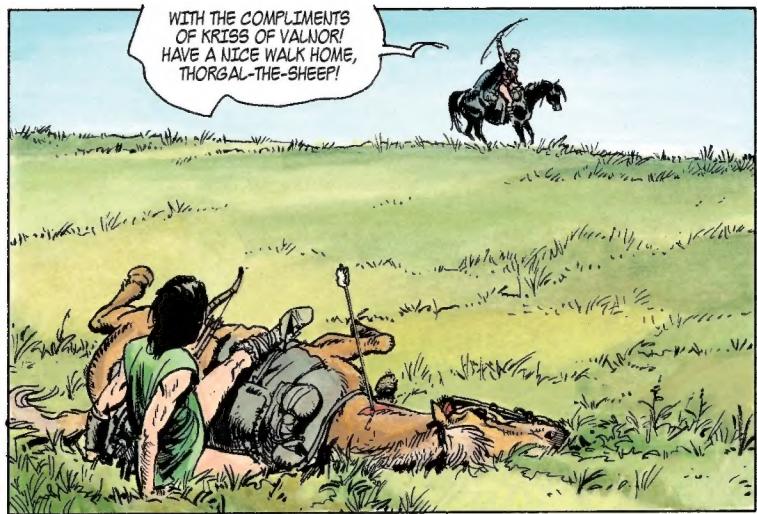














WHO ARE YOU?  
WHY DID YOU  
CALL ME THAT?

DID YOU NOT COME  
TO ME ON A STAR-STREWNU  
NIGHT? COME, GIVE ME  
THAT RABBIT THAT HAS BEEN  
HANGING FROM YOUR  
BELT SINCE THIS MORNING.  
YOU MUST BE STARVING  
AFTER SUCH A LONG  
DAY'S WALK.

HOW DO YOU KNOW?  
ARE YOU A WITCH?

HAI HAI! MEN ARE  
QUICK TO CALL  
WITCH THOSE THEY  
DO NOT UNDERSTAND.  
GIVE ME YOUR KNIFE,  
TOO. NO. OLD ALAYIN  
IS NO WITCH.

I CAN SENSE THINGS, IS ALL.  
I SENSED YOU COMING WELL BEFORE  
YOU CAME OVER THE HORIZON, AND  
SO I BUILT THIS FIRE TO WELCOME  
YOU. DO YOU KNOW THAT THE RIVER  
FOLK ARE LOOKING  
FOR YOU?

THE RIVER  
FOLK?

ONE OF THEM WAS KILLED  
THIS MORNING. THEY THINK  
YOU DID IT.

I DID NOT  
KILL THAT  
MAN.

I KNOW.  
THEY DO NOT. WOULD  
YOU LIKE ME TO READ  
YOUR FATE IN THE  
ENTRAILS OF THIS  
RABBIT KILLED BY  
YOUR OWN ARROW?

I DO  
NOT CARE FOR  
PREDICTIONS.

WHO SAID ANYTHING  
ABOUT PREDICTIONS? IT  
IS NOTHING MORE THAN  
READING WHAT HAS BEEN  
WRITTEN FOR ALL ETERNITY  
IN THE ESSENTIAL LINES.

AND I SEE HERE THAT YOU COME  
FROM VERY FAR, CHILD OF THE STARS.  
VERY FAR INDEED. MUCH FARTHER THAN  
ANY MAN OF THIS WORLD COULD EVER  
IMAGINE. I ALSO SEE THAT NOW  
YOU ARE TRYING TO GET BACK  
TO YOUR FAMILY.

BUT FORMIDABLE CHALLENGES AWAITS YOU  
ALONG THE WAY HOME. YOU WILL HAVE TO  
OVERCOME MANY OBSTACLES BEFORE  
YOU CAN ONCE AGAIN HOLD AGAINST  
YOUR HEART THOSE YOU LOVE.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU SEE?  
WHAT ARE THESE OBSTACLES?

WELL, WELL. IT SEEMS I AM BEGINNING TO PIQUE YOUR INTEREST. BUT I CAN ONLY TELL YOU THAT THESE OBSTACLES WILL BE BORN OF YOUR OWN NATURE.

IN THE ENTRAILS OF THIS RABBIT YOU ARE ABOUT TO EAT, I SAW THAT YOU HAVE ALREADY LIVED SEVERAL LIVES. TWICE DID DEATH STRIKE YOU DOWN, AND TWICE DID THE GODS BRING YOU BACK TO LIFE, FOR YOUR DESTINY HAS NOT YET BEEN FULFILLED.

YOU WENT BEYOND TIME, BEYOND OUR WORLD, EVEN BEYOND THE LAND OF SHADOWS, AND EVERY TIME, YOU CAME BACK. YOU ARE PROTECTED BY THE GODS, CHILD OF THE STARS.

YOU ARE BUT A MAN OF FLESH AND BLOOD, AND YET YOU WENT WHERE NO OTHER MAN COULD HAVE MANAGED TO GO.

BUT THIS PROTECTION WEIGHS TOO HEAVILY ON YOUR HEART AND SHOULDERS, FOR IT IS PERILOUS FOR A MERE MORTAL TO HOLD TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE IN THE EYES OF THOSE WHO PRESIDE OVER OUR DESTINIES.

HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THAT? WHO ARE YOU, REALLY?

I TOLD YOU: I AM JUST OLD ALAIN, THE ONE WHO SENSES THINGS AND SEES WHAT NO ONE ELSE SEES. EAT NOW. YOUR MEAT MUST BE DONE.

AND WHILE YOU EAT, I WILL TELL YOU A STORY. A STORY FROM THE TIME BEFORE TIME...

WHEN THE GODS LEARNT THAT THEIR TWILIGHT WAS NEAR, THAT THEIR LAST WAR AGAINST THE GIANTS WAS INEVITABLE, THEY GATHERED ONE LAST TIME IN THE PALACE OF GREAT ODIN.

THERE, ONE AFTER ANOTHER, EVERY GOD AND GODDESS CARVED ON A GRANITE SLAB THE SECRETS OF HIS OR HER POWER AND THE ESSENTIAL LINES OF THE FATES THAT WERE IN THEIR CARE.



ODIN THEN ORDERED THE YOUNGEST OF HIS VALKRIES, TAIMYR, TO HIDE THE STONE INSIDE AN INVISIBLE FORTRESS, BEYOND TIME AND SPACE. THAT WAY, REGARDLESS OF HOW THE BATTLE ENDED, THE MEMORY OF THE GODS WOULD BE PRESERVED.



THEN, WHILE TAIMYR LEFT TO FULFIL THE MISSION SHE HAD BEEN GIVEN, THE GODS ARMED THEMSELVES FOR THEIR LAST WAR.



AS YOU KNOW, THERE WERE NO VICTORS IN THAT BATTLE. THE GIANTS VANISHED, AND THE GODS PULLED AWAY FROM EARTH AND MEN FOREVER. AND, IN THEIR EXILE TO ASGARD, THEY FORGOT ABOUT TAIMYR AND THE STONE SHE HAD TAKEN WITH HER.



AND SO IT IS THAT FOR ENDLESS THOUSANDS OF YEARS, A PRISONER AS MUCH AS A GUARDIAN OF HER INVISIBLE FORTRESS, TAIMYR HAS LOOKED AFTER THE SECRET OF THE MEMORY OF THE GODS.



WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL THIS, ALAYIN?



BECAUSE YOUR NAME, LIKE THAT OF MILLIONS OF OTHERS, MUST BE CARVED ON THAT STONE, CHILD OF THE STARS.



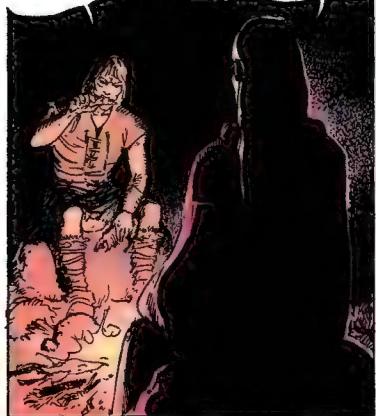
ALL YOU WOULD HAVE TO DO IS FIND AND ERASE IT—AND THE GODS WOULD FORGET YOU AT LAST.

YOU'RE RAMBLING, OLD WOMAN. YOUR STORY IS BUT A LEGEND.

OF COURSE. YET, WHAT IS A LEGEND BUT A DIFFERENT VISION OF REALITY?

ONLY IF I FIND THE ENTRANCE!

OH, I CAN HELP YOU FIND IT. AS LONG AS YOU REALLY WANT IT. HOW WAS YOUR RABBIT?



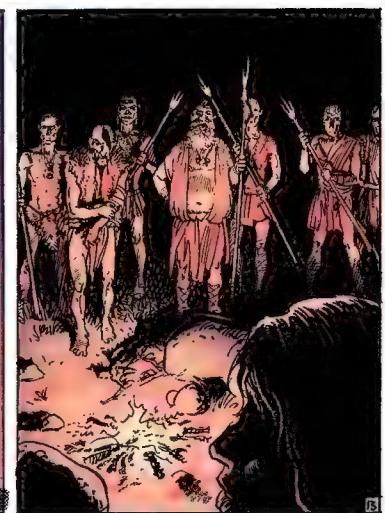
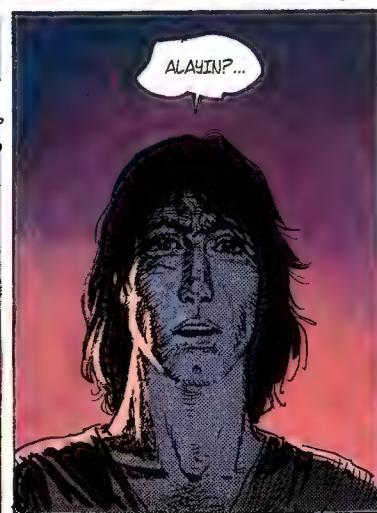
EXCELLENT. HERE, I LEFT SOME FOR YOU.

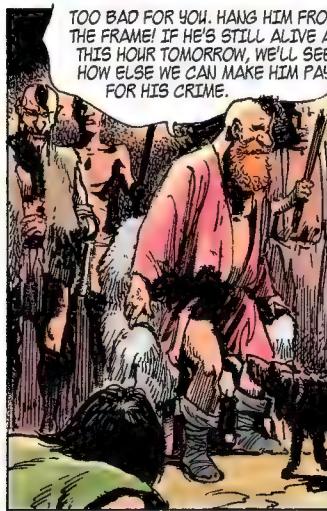
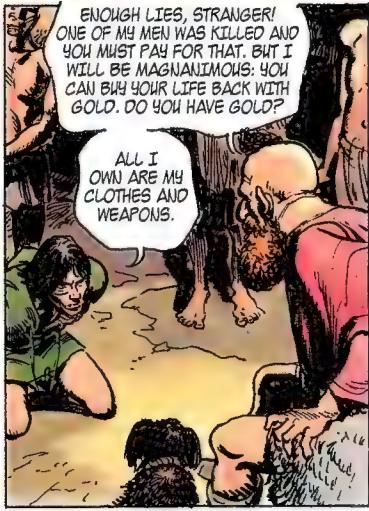
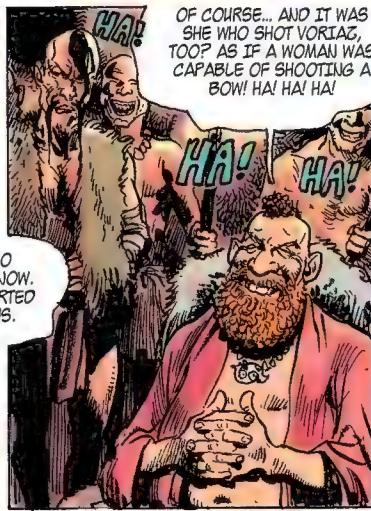
NO, THANKS. MY OLD TEETH CANNOT HANDLE THAT SORT OF THING ANYMORE. AND IT IS TIME FOR ME TO LEAVE YOU. ONE LAST THING, THOUGH...

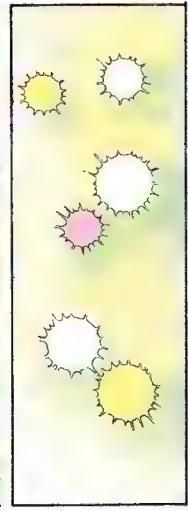
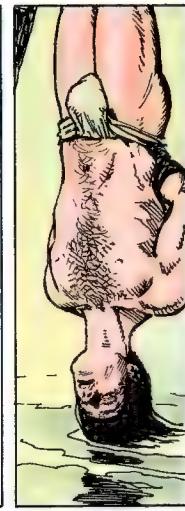
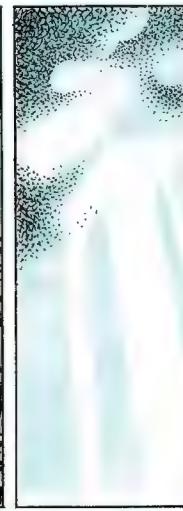
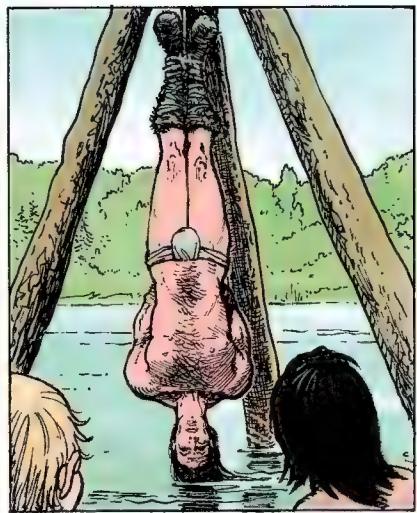
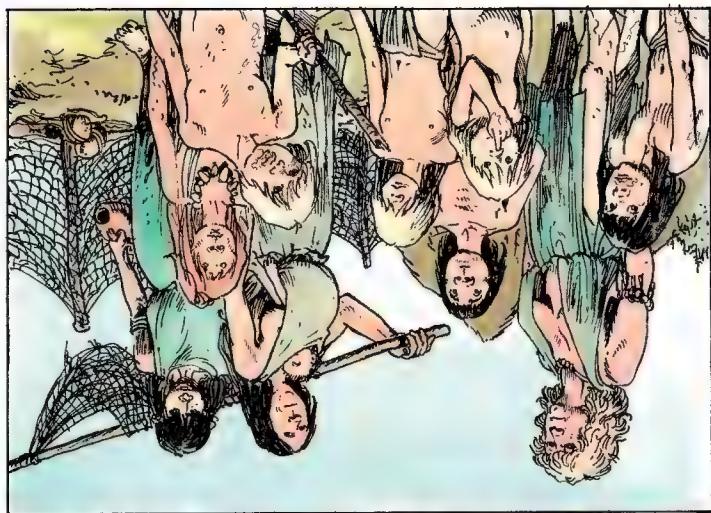
TAIMYR'S FORTRESS IS PROTECTED BY A MULTITUDE OF SPELLS AND DEMONS. IF YOU CHANCE GOING THERE, YOU WILL FACE MUCH WORSE DANGERS THAN ANYTHING YOU HAVE FACED TO THIS DAY.



WAIT... WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?







DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY WILL DO TO YOU TOMORROW, ASSUMING YOUR HEAD HAS NOT BURST BY THEN? THEY WILL SKIN YOU ALIVE. I HEAR IT IS VERY UNPLEASANT.

A... ALAYIN...  
C... CUT ME DOWN...

NO DOUBT YOU WOULD RATHER BE FACING THE ENCHANTMENTS OF THE INVISIBLE FORTRESS. WHAT SAY YOU?

I... I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU ASK. CUT ME DOWN.  
I... I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE OF THIS.

VERY WELL.

WORRY NOT  
ABOUT HIM.  
HE CANNOT  
SEE US.

NO ONE HERE  
CAN SEE US.  
BUT IT WILL  
NOT LAST.

THERE'S...  
A SENTRY...

THAT'S WHAT I  
THOUGHT: YOU'RE A  
WITCH. LAST NIGHT,  
YOU LIT A FIRE  
AND DISTRACTED  
ME WITH YOUR  
STORIES TO  
BETRAY ME TO  
THE RIVER FOLK.

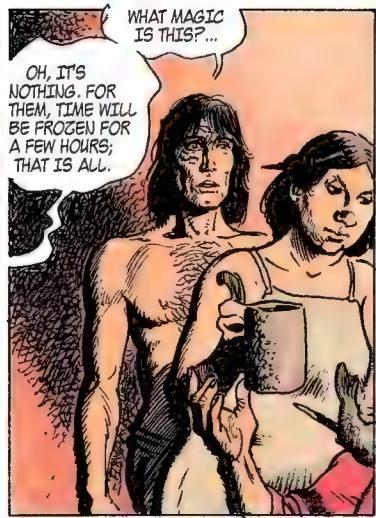
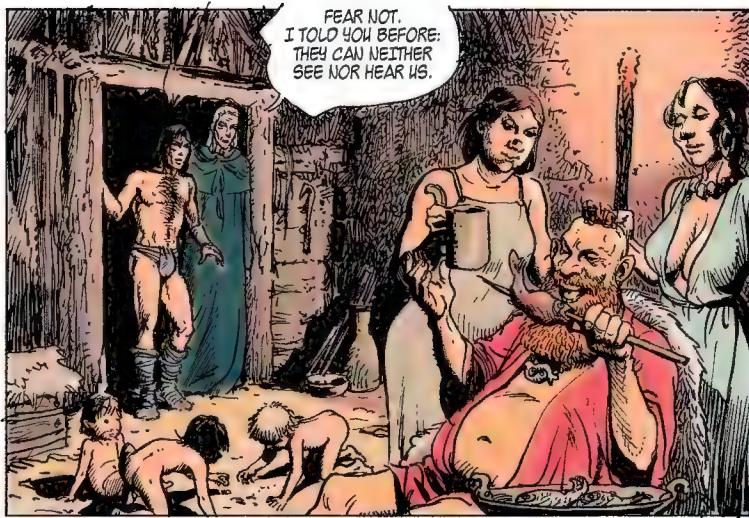
WHY  
WOULD I DO  
SUCH A  
THING?

I DON'T KNOW. PROBABLY  
SO YOU CAN NOW FREE  
ME IN EXCHANGE FOR  
MY PROMISE TO  
LOOK FOR YOUR  
SO-CALLED  
STONE OF THE  
GODS.

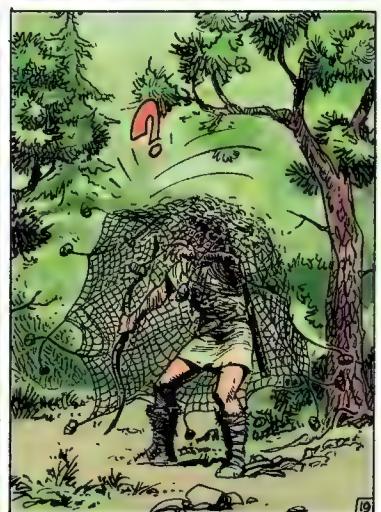
YOU THINK TOO MUCH,  
MY BOY. COME, LET  
US GO RECOVER  
YOUR CLOTHES AND  
WEAPONS. YOU SHALL  
NEED THEM.

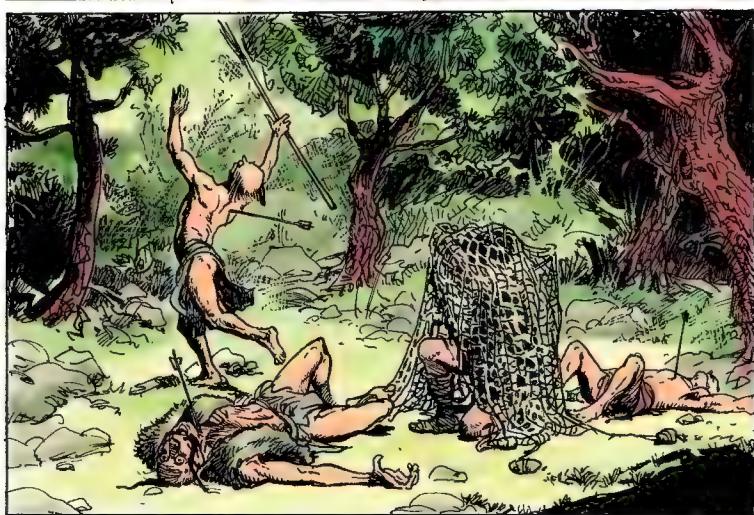
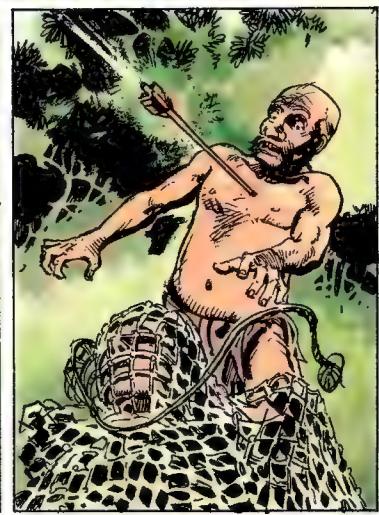
MY WEAPONS?  
BUT HOW?

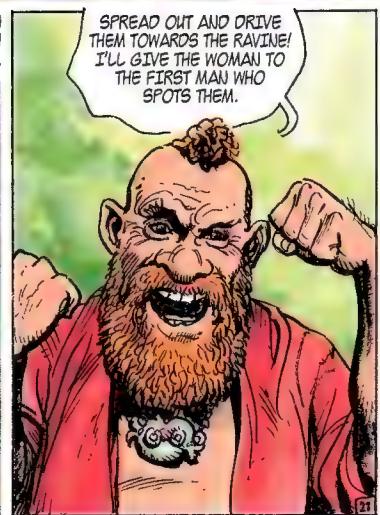
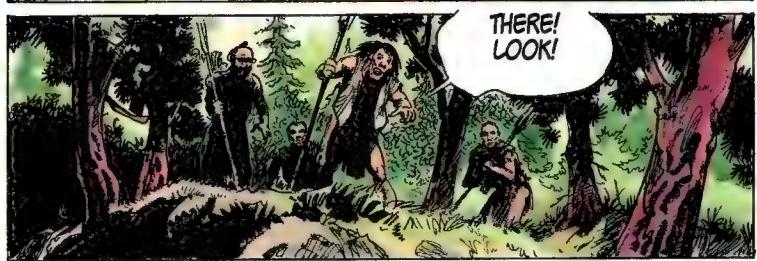
TRUST ME.

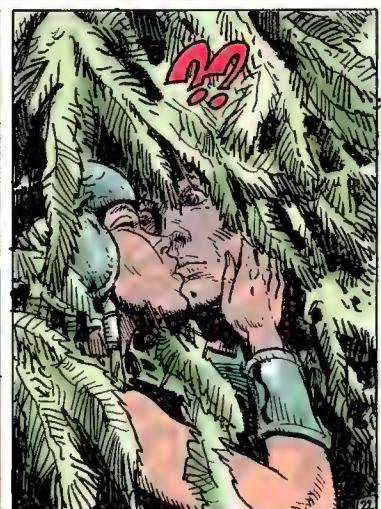


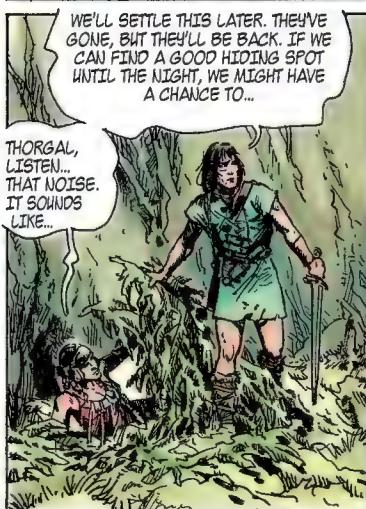
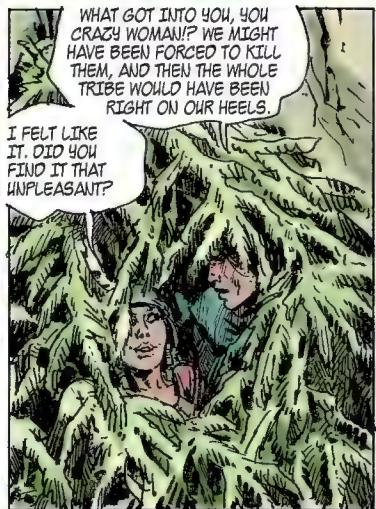
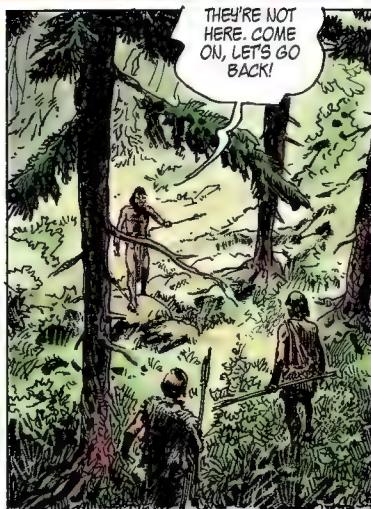


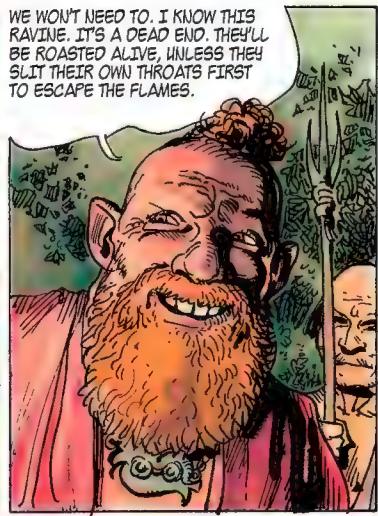


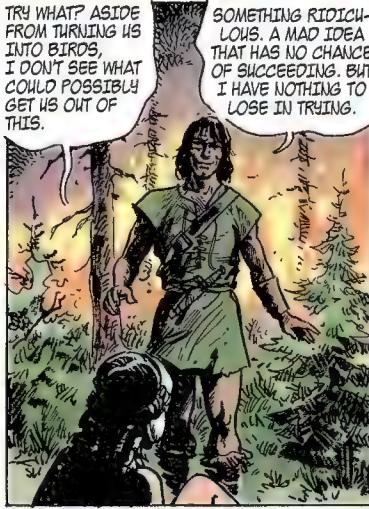
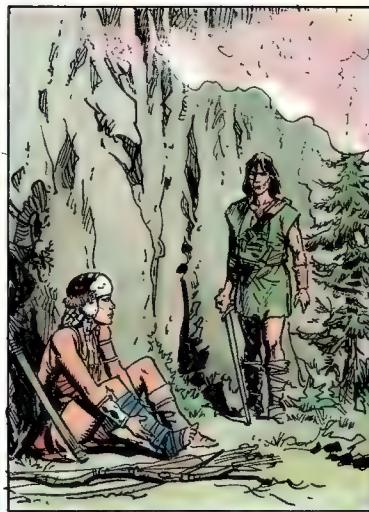


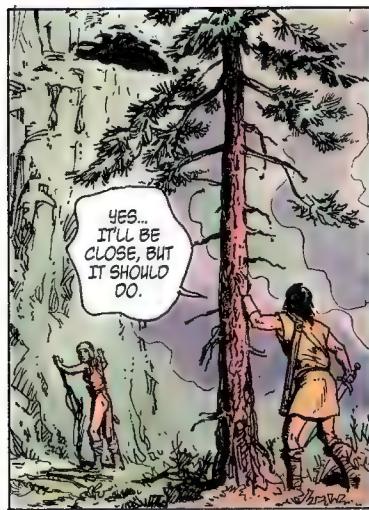
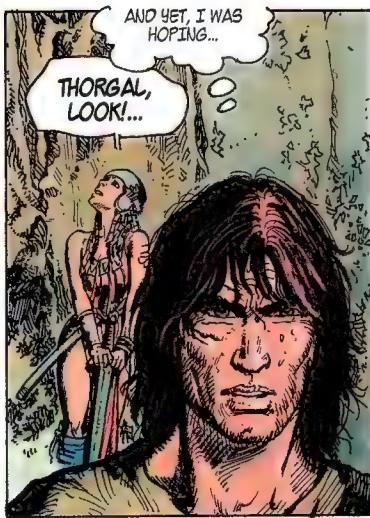


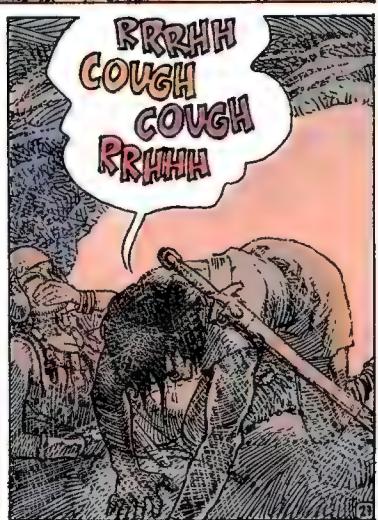


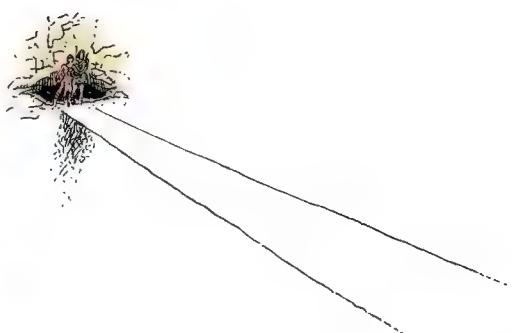


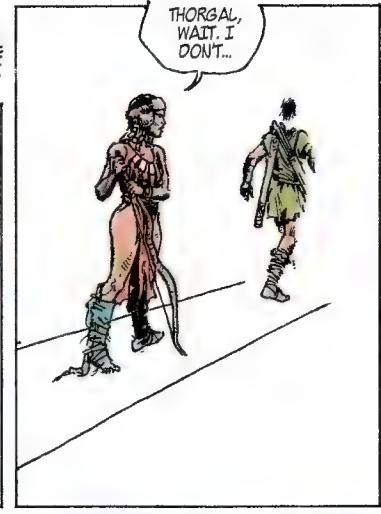
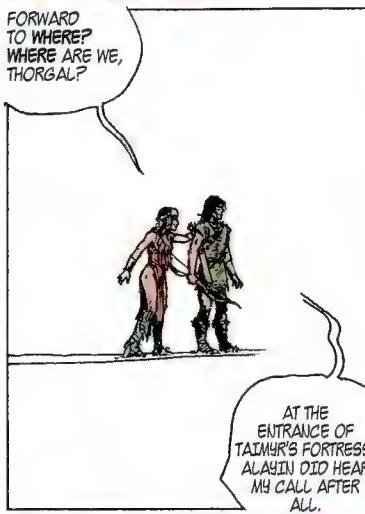
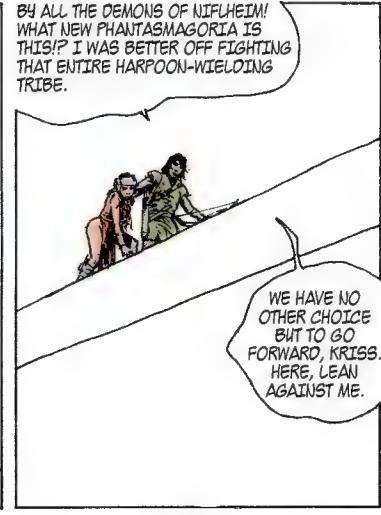


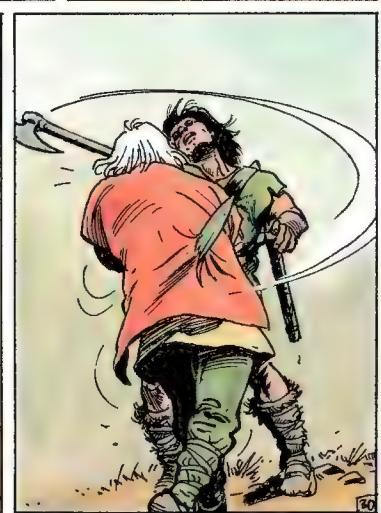
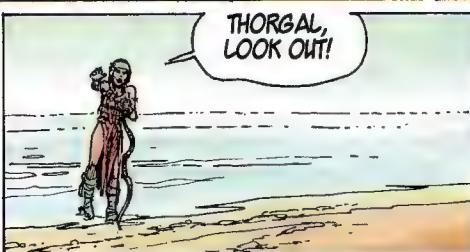
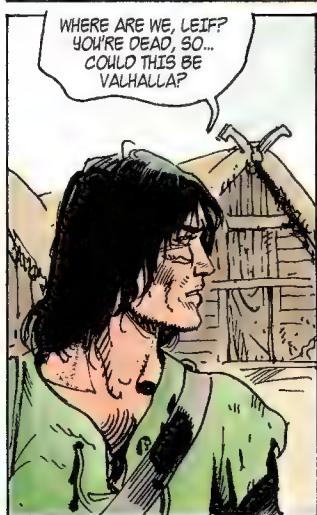
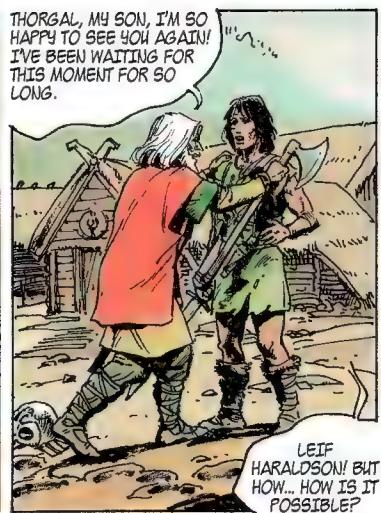
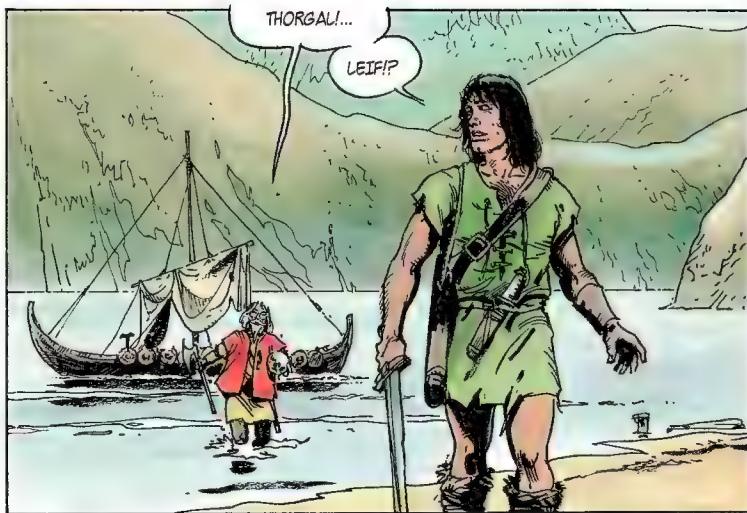


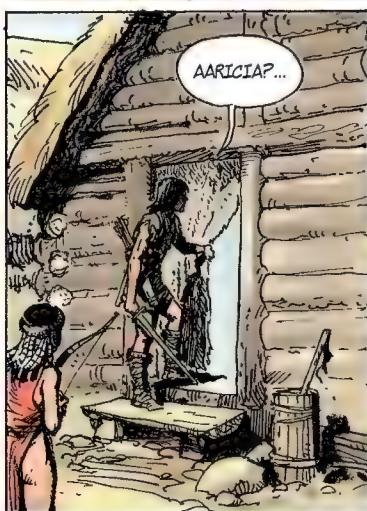
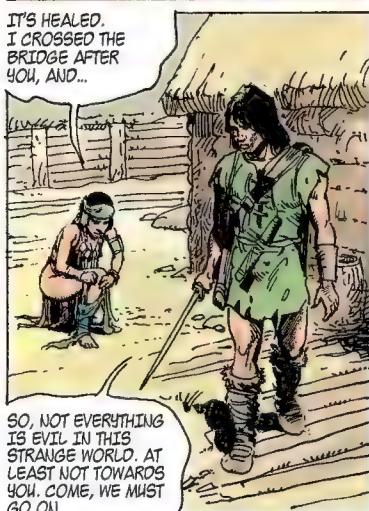
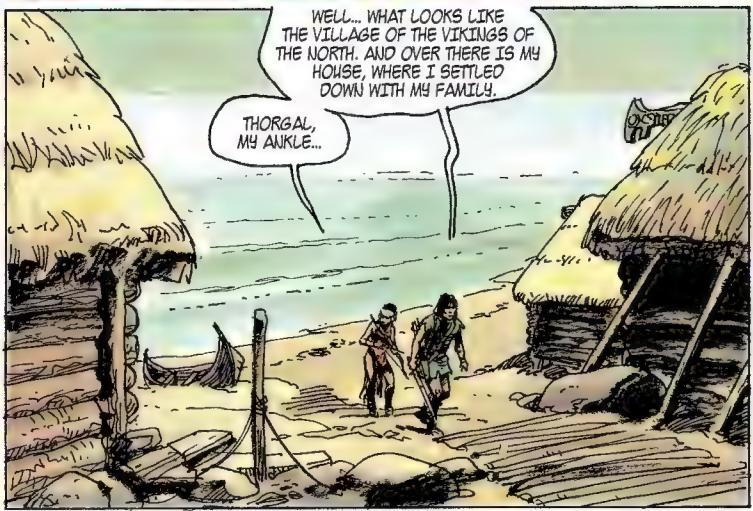
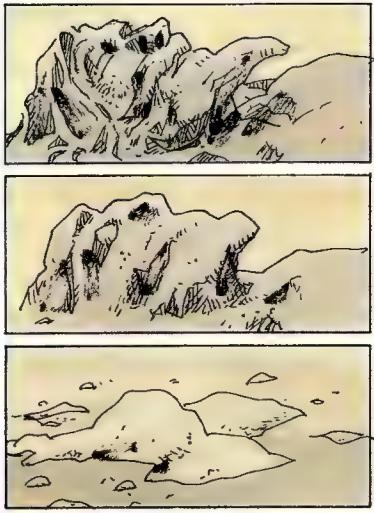


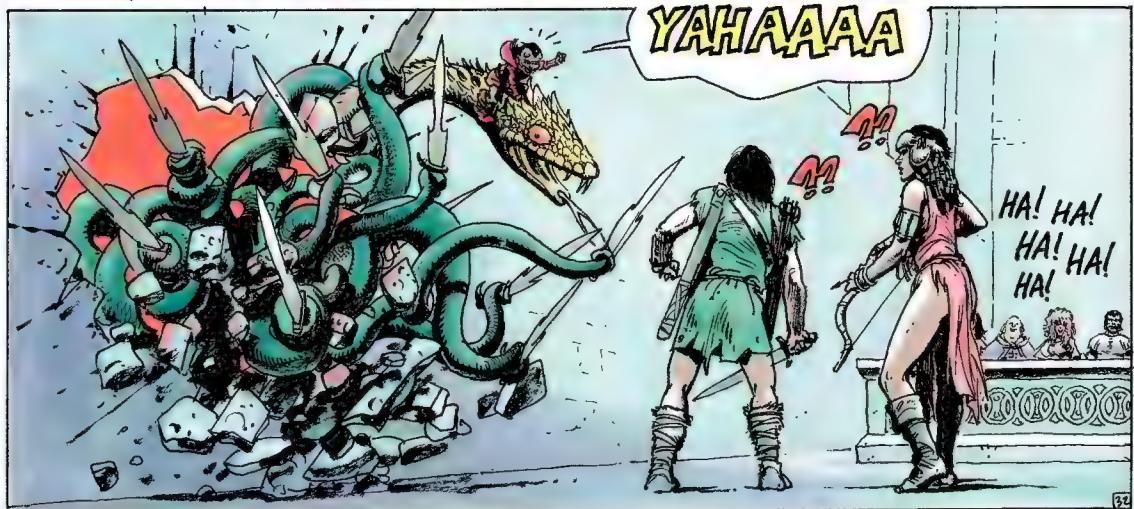




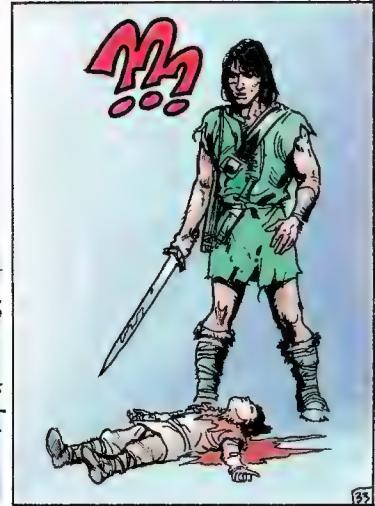
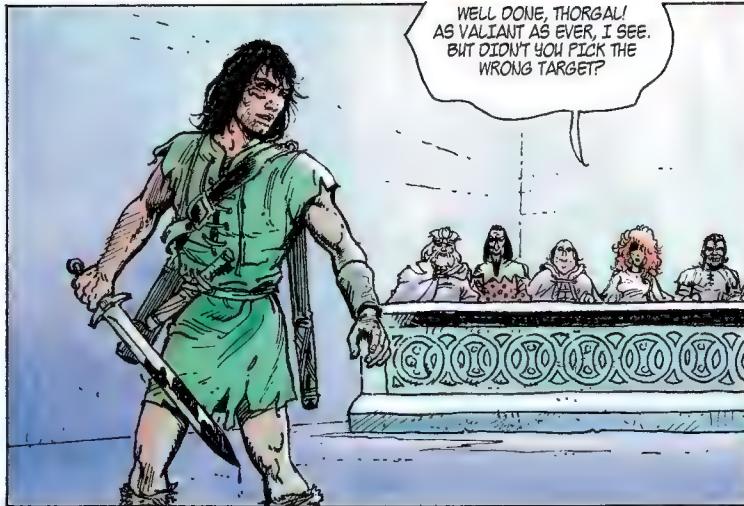


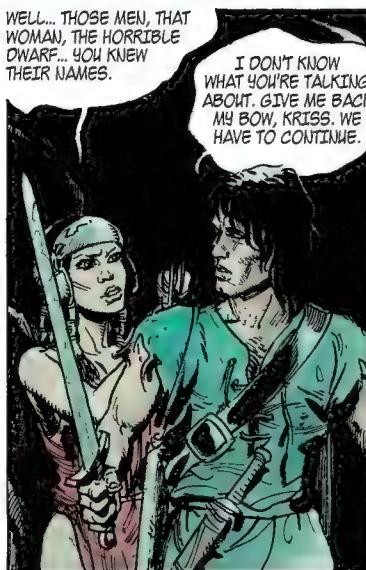






HAHAAA!...  
GO, NIDHOGG!  
GUT HIM!



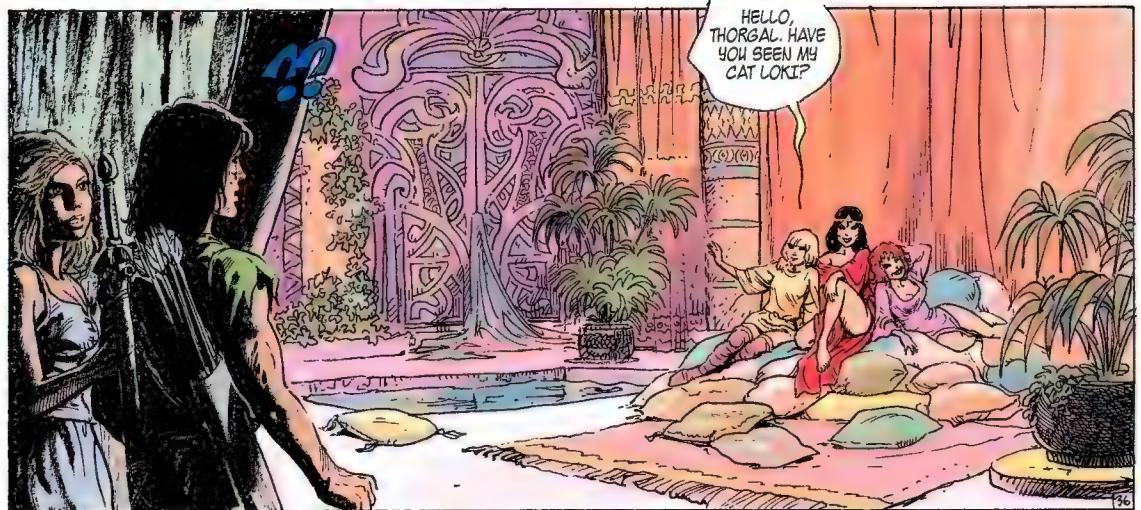
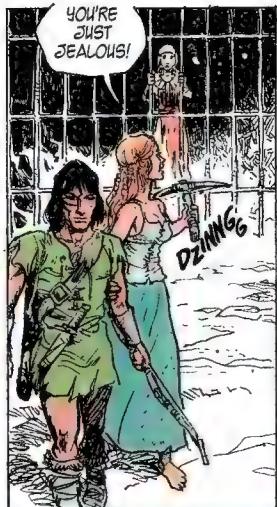




BY ALL THE DEMONS  
OF NIFLHEIM, WHAT  
NEW DEVILTRY IS  
THIS?



DON'T LISTEN TO HER,  
THORGAL! IT'S A TRAP!  
SHE'LL TRY TO KILL YOU  
LIKE THE OTHERS!



DO YOU  
REMEMBER  
MY SISTERS,  
INGRID AND  
RAGNHILD?

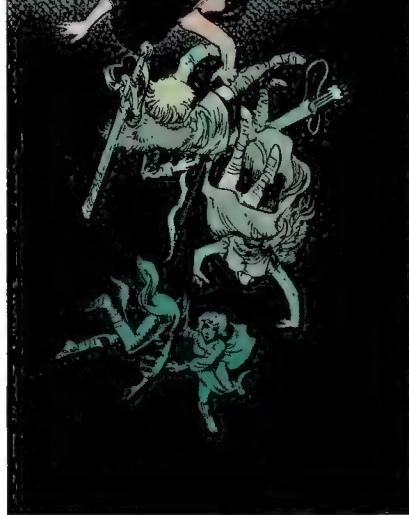
WE WELCOME YOU,  
THORGAL.

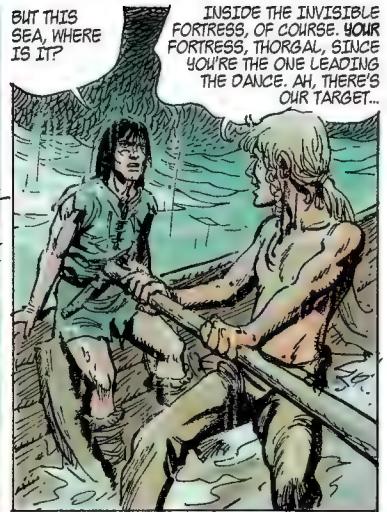
COME  
SIT WITH  
US.

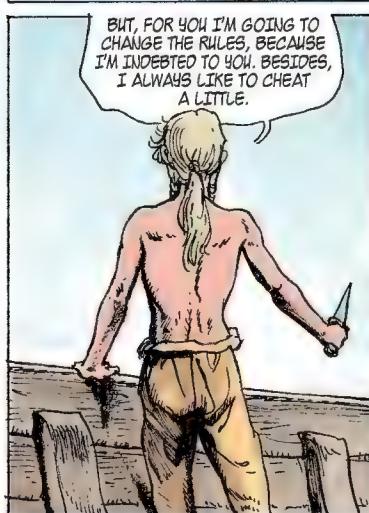
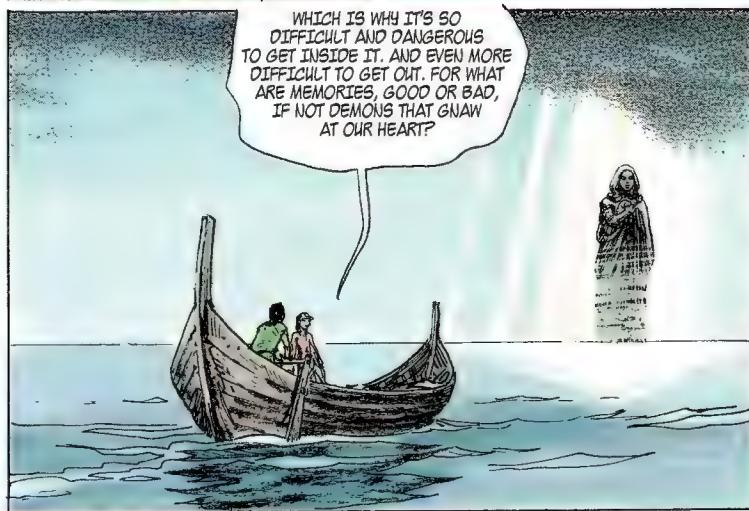
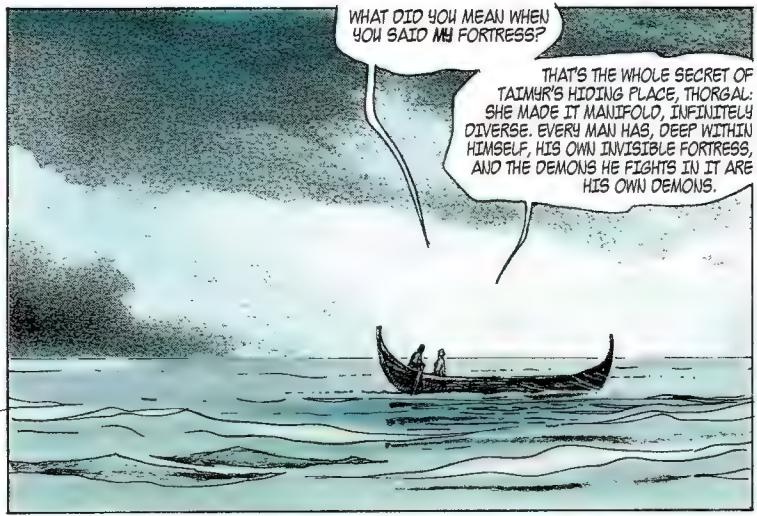
STILL  
A SUCCESS  
WITH WOMEN,  
I SEE.

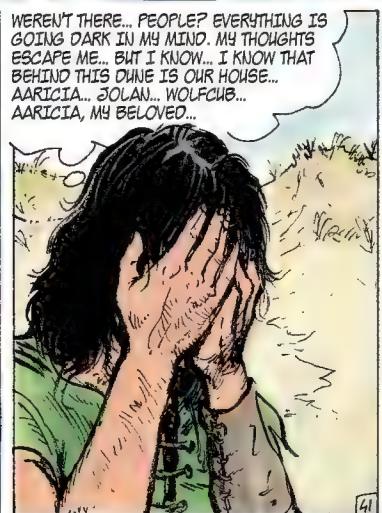
BUT THIS IS ONE TOO  
MANY, MY PRETTY. GO AHEAD,  
GIRLS. GET HIM!

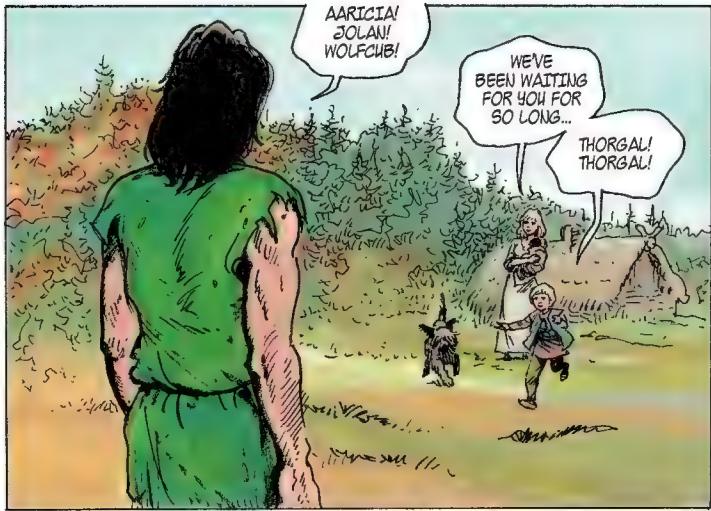
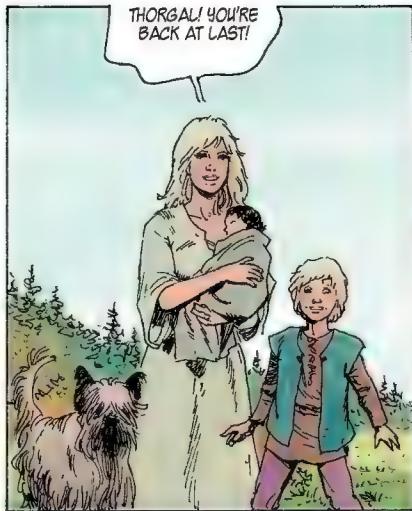
YO-YO











WHO ARE YOU THAT  
YOU HATE ME SO  
MUCH?

YOUR WORST  
ENEMY.

A THOUSAND  
CURSES ON  
YOU, THEN!



WHERE ARE WE?

WHERE YOU  
HAD TO BE.

SO, YOU  
WERE  
TAIMYR?

I AM.

THE GODDESS FRIGG, WIFE OF GREAT ODIN,  
TOOK PITY ON YOU AND ASKED THAT YOUR NAME  
BE ERASED FROM THE MEMORY OF THE GODS.

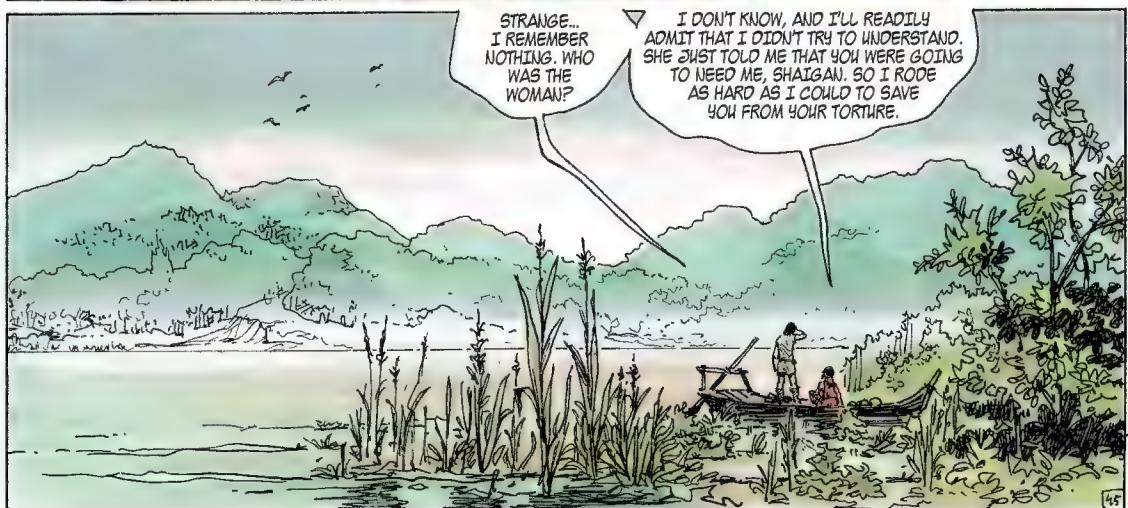
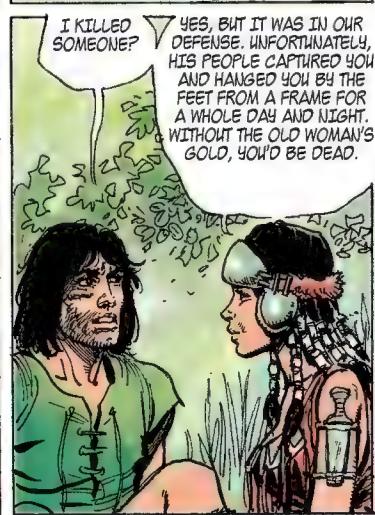
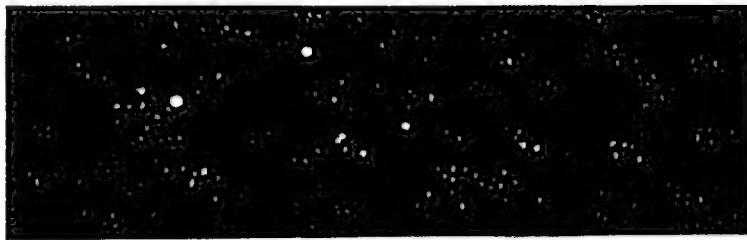
BUT THEY DEMANDED THAT  
YOUR OWN MEMORY BE GIVEN  
TO THEM IN EXCHANGE. FOR  
THE GODS, JUST LIKE MEN,  
NEVER GIVE SOMETHING  
FOR NOTHING.

YOU DEFEATED THE  
DEMONS OF THE INVISIBLE  
FORTRESS, THORGAL. ONLY  
ONE THING REMAINS FOR YOU  
TO DO: ERASE YOUR NAME  
WRITTEN IN THE SACRED  
LANGUAGE BY PUTTING  
THE PALM OF YOUR  
HAND OVER IT.

WITH YOUR NAME,  
YOUR LAST MEMORY  
SHALL BE ERASED,  
AND A NEW DESTINY  
WILL BEGIN  
FOR YOU.

NOW!

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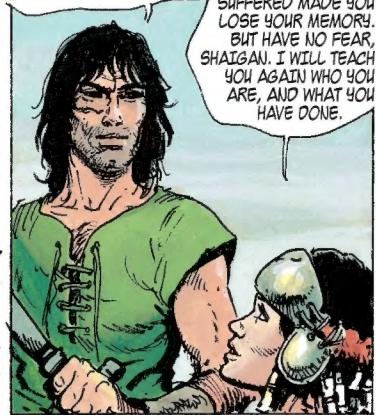


YOU CALLED ME  
SHAIGAN. IS... IS  
THAT MY NAME?

YES. THEY CALL YOU SHAIGAN  
THE MERCILESS BECAUSE YOU  
NEVER GIVE QUARTER TO YOUR  
ENEMIES. THERE IS NO BETTER  
WARRIOR THAN YOU,  
SHAIGAN.

IT'S STRANGE. MY THOUGHTS ARE  
NOTHING BUT EMPTY DARKNESS. I  
DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO I AM OR  
WHERE I COME FROM.

THE ABUSE YOU  
SUFFERED MADE YOU  
LOSE YOUR MEMORY.  
BUT HAVE NO FEAR,  
SHAIGAN. I WILL TEACH  
YOU AGAIN WHO YOU  
ARE, AND WHAT YOU  
HAVE DONE.



THEN, ARE YOU...  
I AM THE ONE WHO LOVES  
MY WIFE?

I AM THE ONE WHO LOVES  
YOU AND WHOM YOU'VE ALWAYS  
LOVED, SHAIGAN. THE LOYAL  
COMPANION OF ALL YOUR FIGHTS  
AND ALL YOUR PLEASURES. I AM  
KRIS OF VALOR, THE WORTHY  
WIFE OF SHAIGAN THE  
MERCILESS.

I WILL TELL YOU, MY BELOVED.  
I WILL TELL YOU EVERYTHING,  
AND ALSO WHAT WE WILL  
ACCOMPLISH FROM HERE ON  
OUT. HERE, HAVE SOME MORE  
WATER.



MY HAND...  
IT BURNS. AND  
THESE SIGNS?  
WHAT DO THEY  
MEAN?

I DON'T KNOW. BUT THE PAST  
DOESN'T MATTER, SHAIGAN.  
ONLY THE FUTURE COUNTS.

AND THIS  
FUTURE WILL  
SEE US RULERS  
OF THE WORLD.



THE END

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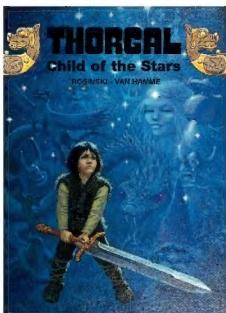
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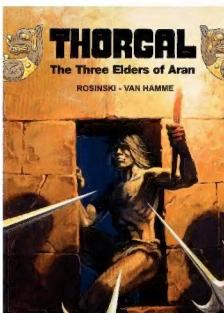


# THORGAL

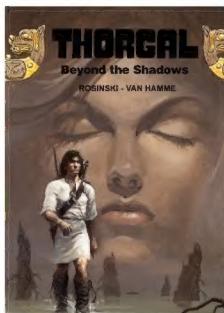
the gods have put a man to the test



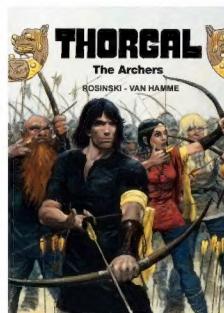
1 Child of the Stars  
Incl. Aaricia



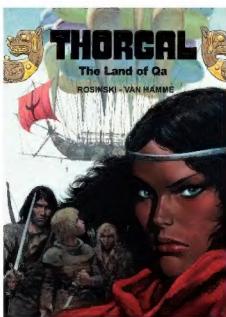
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Incl. The Black Galley



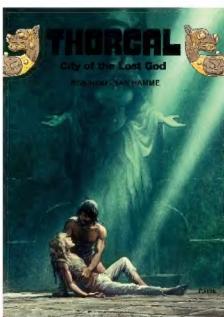
3 Beyond the Shadows  
Incl. The Fall of Brek Zarith



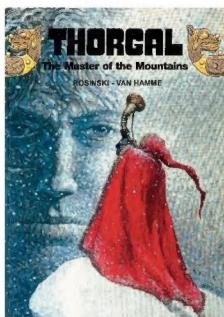
4 The Archers  
Incl. Alineo



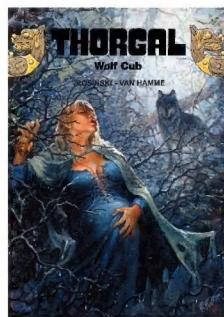
5 The Land of Qa  
Incl. The Eyes of Tanatloc



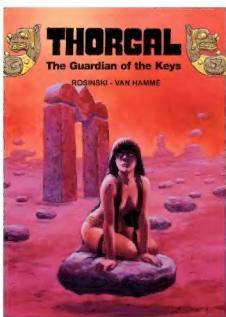
6 City of the Lost God  
Incl. Between Earth and Light



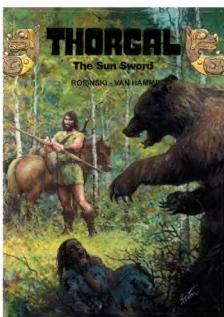
7 The Master of the Mountains



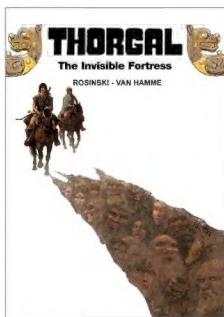
8 Wolf Cub



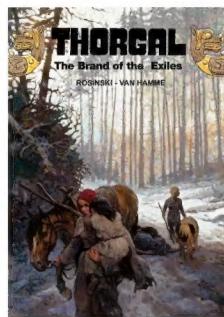
9 The Guardian of the Keys



10 The Sun Sword



11 The Invisible Fortress



12 The Brand of the Exiles



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